



**QUEEN'S
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'Water and the City', Reflections Newsletter, Issue 24, QUB

Sengupta, U. (2017, Jun). 'Water and the City', Reflections Newsletter, Issue 24, QUB. Queens University Belfast.

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

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Mapping Castle Street Workshop

By Dr Agustina Martire, School of Natural and Built Environment

In November 2016, I ran a 2-day workshop entitled 'Mapping Castle Street: an interdisciplinary workshop about the character of the street', in the Planning Landscape Architecture Community Environment (PLACE) NI. The workshop, which was facilitated by PLACE NI and sponsored by Queen's University Belfast, aimed to produce a provocative urban study of Castle Street.

The workshop involved researchers and students as group leaders and participants from a diverse set of disciplines, namely History, Geography, Planning, Sound, Sociology and Architecture and throughout two days of intense work in four groups, we explored Castle Street. The groups were led by Dr James Davis and Anna Skoura (History), Conor McCafferty and Matilde Meireles (Sound), Dr Agustina Martire and Steven Donnelly

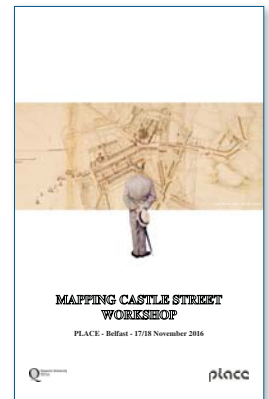
(Aspirations/Planning), and James Hennessey (Perceptions/Ethnography).

At the end of two days of exploration, a series of maps and images were produced and communicated at a short presentation which was attended by a broad set of practitioners, policy makers and students from Queen's University, Royal Society of Ulster Architects (RSUA), PLACE, the City Council and the general public. These images challenged the prevailing ideas of the character of Castle Street

and invited viewers to understand the Street under a different perspective, with the aim of broadening the interpretation of urban streets beyond the common tools of built environment disciplines.

Dr Ken Sterrett responded to the presentation with a set of new challenges for the project to be carried forward.

Please contact a.martire@qub.ac.uk for further details.



Water and The City

By Dr Urmi Sengupta, Natural and Built Environment

The Level 2 undergraduate planners engaged in the Water & the City project in the autumn semester, focusing on envisioning schemes for four waterfront sites from Belfast City Centre.

The theme for the project was inspired by the Lagan River and its economic, social, cultural and aesthetic role in the city and its urbanism. Water, as a natural element, helps to soften the urban landscape and its significance has witnessed a revival in recent decades. Students developed schemes on these waterfront sites to make a place of "distinction, permanence, and connection", proposing both built-form and exploring the architectural aspects of water. They planned a series of spaces along the water that are neutral, compact, delightful, vibrant, safe and secure. The project was devised as a creative learning process

to develop creativity and imagination in our students, using real sites and real life challenges. It brought together academics and practitioners, and was delivered through both studio-teaching and outdoor-learning, capturing the essence of our environment, what is valuable to us and what we look to enhance.

For further information please contact Dr. Urmi Sengupta (u.sengupta@qub.ac.uk)



Urban oasis in Sirocco site with high quality public space enclosed by mixed use development



Student vision to create an 'eco village' along Lagan River